

CLAIM STATUS

1. (Currently Amended) An article of commerce comprising:
 - (a) a longitudinally continuous web having a longitudinal down-web direction, a lateral cross-web direction, and lateral sides, with:
 - (i) superimposed first and second layers secured together by spaced apart lateral seals and longitudinal seals spaced along each longitudinal edge of the web along the lateral sides; wherein:
 - (A) the first layer comprises a gas permeable microbial barrier layer, and
 - (B) the second layer comprises a thermoplastic gas impermeable layer,
 - (ii) longitudinally spaced laterally extending lines of weakness in one of the first or second layer said lines of weakness being adjacent to one of said lateral seals,
 - (iii) longitudinally spaced laterally extending lines of separation in the other first or second layer with the lines of separation paired with the lines of weakness wherein upon detachment of the web along the line of weakness access is created to a space between the first layer and the second layer on a first side of the line of weakness while maintaining the adjacent seal along a second side of the line of weakness; and,

- (b) the seals between the layers being peelable seals delineating sides and an end of [[a]] the space between the first and second layer for receiving a product to be sterilized by sterilizing gas passed through the permeable layer.
2. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the lines of weakness are in the first layer and the lines of separation are in the second layer.
 3. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the lines of weakness are in the second layer and the lines of separation are in the first layer.
 4. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the longitudinally continuous web forms a roll.
 5. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the paired laterally extending lines of weakness and laterally extending lines of separation in the first and second layers are superimposed.
 6. (Original) The article of claim 5 wherein the longitudinally continuous web is repetatively folded back at regular intervals along the superimposed paired laterally extending line of weakness and laterally extending line of separation to form a pleated stack.
 7. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the first and second layers are

sealed along the lateral sides with a peelable seal which is impervious to microbes.

8. (Cancelled)
9. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the first layer is a thermoplastic gas permeable microbial barrier.
10. (Original) The article of claim 9 wherein the first layer is a spunbonded olefin gas permeable microbial barrier.
11. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the second layer is transparent.
12. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the lines of weakness are lines of perforation.
13. (Original) The article of claim 2 wherein the lines of weakness are lines of perforation with a hole:land area ratio of about 15:1 to 25:1 with about 0.4 to 0.6 perforations per centimeter.
14. (Currently Amended) An article of commerce comprising:
 - (a) a longitudinally continuous web having a longitudinal down-web direction, a lateral cross-

web direction, and lateral ends; with:

- (i) superimposed first and second layers being sealed together by seals along one lateral end and along spaced side portions, wherein:
 - (A) the first layer comprises a gas permeable microbial barrier layer, and
 - (B) the second layer comprises a thermoplastic gas impermeable layer,
 - (ii) a longitudinally spaced series of paired laterally extending lines of weakness and separation in the first and second layers,
 - (iii) wherein the first and second layers are sealed along a pair of laterally extending seal lines located proximate each paired lines of weakness and separation with the individual laterally extending seal lines in each pair of laterally extending seal lines separated by a paired lines of weakness and separation wherein upon detachment of the web along the line of weakness access is created to a space between the first layer and the second layer on a first side of the line of weakness while maintaining the adjacent seal along a second side of the line of weakness and,
- (b) the seals between the layers being peelable seals delineating sides and an end of [[a]] the space between the first and second layer to receive a product to be sterilized by sterilizing gas passed through the permeable layer.

15. (Original) The article of claim 14 wherein the longitudinally continuous web forms a roll.
16. (Original) The article of claim 14 wherein the paired laterally extending lines of weakness in the first and second layers are superimposed.
17. (Original) The article of claim 16 wherein the longitudinally continuous web is repetitively folded back at regular intervals along the superimposed paired laterally extending line of weakness and laterally extending line of separation to form a pleated stack
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Original) The article of claim 14 wherein the first layer is a thermoplastic gas permeable microbial barrier.
20. (Original) The article of claim 19 wherein the first layer is a spunbonded olefin gas permeable microbial barrier.
21. (Original) The article of claim 14 wherein the second layer is transparent.
22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14 wherein the line weakness is a line of perforations in the first layer which line has a hole:land area ratio of about 15:1 to 50:1 with about 0.2 to 0.6 perforations per centimeter.
- 24.-37. (Cancelled)
38. (Currently Amended) An article of commerce comprising:
- (a) a longitudinally continuous web having a longitudinal down-web direction, a lateral cross-web direction, and lateral sides, with:
 - (b) superimposed first and second layers sealed together along the longitudinal sides and having spaced apart sealed lateral sides to define bags for packaging sterilizable items, wherein both the first and second layers are effective for preventing passage of microbes through the layer and at least the first layer is effective for permitting the passage of a sterilization gas,
 - (c) longitudinally spaced laterally extending lines of weakness in one of the first and second layers said lines of weakness being adjacent to one of said lateral seals,
 - (d) longitudinally spaced laterally extending lines of separation in the other of the first and second layers with the lines of separation paired with the lines of weakness wherein upon detachment of the web along the line of weakness, access is created to a space between the first layer and the second layer on a first side of the line of weakness while maintaining the adjacent seal along a second side of the line of weakness; and,
 - (e) the seals between the layers being peelable to fully separate the layers one from the other whereby to facilitate sterile access to items packaged in

such bags without fear of contamination by residue from either layer.

39. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 38 wherein the first layer defines a surface area and the entire surface area of the first layer is effective for preventing passage of microbes through the layer and permitting the passage of a sterilization gas.

40.- 49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) A web for making sterilizable packages comprising:

- a) an elongate strip of plastic material forming backs of a number of bags;
- b) the plastic strip being impervious to microbes and sterilizing gasses;
- c) pieces of microbial barrier material forming face layers, one for each of the bags, the barrier material being impervious to microbes and permeable to sterilizing gasses;
- d) seals between the strips and the pieces to delineate individual bags each sealed at the sides and bottom and each with a top opening for the insertion of a sterilizable product;
- e) each of the seals being fully peelable whereby products sequentially inserted into the bags and packaged by heat sealing to close the openings in the bags may be sterilized and subsequently accessed with out fear of contamination by residues of a package resulting from such package being opened; and,
- f) spaced lines of weakness each in the strip adjacent to said bottom seal

wherein upon detachment of the bag from the web along the line of weakness
access is created to a bag on a first side of the line of weakness and a seal is
maintained on a second side of the line of weakness, said line of weakness
delineating between two contiguous bags to delineate bag ends and [[provide]]
provides for facile separation of the bags, one from another.

51. (Previously Presented) The web of claim 50 wherein the barrier material is a spun bonded polyolefin material.

52. (Previously Presented) The web of claim 50 wherein the lines of weakness are lines of perforations with a hole:land area ratio of about 15:1 to 25:1 with about 0.4 to 0.6 perforations per centimeter.